

Embargoed until Saturday April 22, 2006
April 21, 2006

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SENATOR SIMITIAN HIGHLIGHTS PLAN TO BRING AFFORDABLE CLEAN ENERGY TO CALIFORNIA IN EARTH DAY RELATED RADIO ADDRESS

(SACRAMENTO) - In recognition of the 37th celebration of Earth Day, Senator Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto), Chair of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee, highlights in this week's Democratic Radio Address the Senate Democrats plan to reduce energy uncertainty in California by promoting clean, renewable electrical energy and alternative fuels for transportation.

Below is a transcript of the radio address. **The address is embargoed for broadcast until Saturday, April 22 at 8 a.m. PST.**

This address along with an mp3 file can be found at <http://democrats.sen.ca.gov>.

This is State Senator Joe Simitian, Chair of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

This weekend marks Earth Day, the 37th such observance.

The challenge of providing sufficient amounts of clean energy at affordable prices is greater today than ever before.

Our growing dependence on non-renewable energy leaves California's formidable economy exposed to forces over which we have no control.

Hurricanes a continent away caused price spikes in natural gas --California's primary electricity fuel.

Political unrest half a world away is being cited as a probable cause of \$3 a gallon gasoline.

The fossil fuel supplies California relies on now in the old energy economy are increasingly unstable.

California needs an energy future that removes these uncertainties from the equation and yields economic growth and stability.

Renewable energy technologies are primed and ready to provide solutions for these complex problems if we have the leadership to steer our energy economy back on course.

Democratic Senators are rising to that challenge.

The Senate plan will make more efficient use of remaining traditional energy resources.

Our cities must become more compact, the rail system expanded, cars and trucks must get more miles per gallon, and alternative fuels must be developed. Standards for new buildings and equipment must be tightened and old buildings rehabilitated. Old power plants must be retired or modernized to use less fuel.

The Senate plan will rapidly expand utilization of California's renewable resources.

While California is rich with wind, geothermal, biofuels, and solar energy resources, there was a lot of energy – no pun – around these resources during the oil embargoes in the 70s. The uncertainties we face today need those efforts jumpstarted.

The Senate plan will attract capital sufficient to displace coal and natural gas in the state's electricity system with renewable energy resources.

This will be a boon for the state's economy, keeping our energy dollars at home and creating thousands of new jobs.

Energy efficiency and renewable energy are cost-effective solutions to the state's current and future energy problems. They form the basis of the Senate's package and will be the basis of California's New Energy Economy.

This is California State Senator Joe Simitian. Happy Earth Day, and thanks for listening.

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